

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

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R 211500Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1645

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, SW

SUBJECT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT: GOS WILL NOT JOIN IN CONSTRUCTION

EURODIF PLANT

SWEDISH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ATOMIC ENERGY COMPANY ANNOUNCED  
SIMULTANEOUSLY MARCH 20 THAT GOS HAS "NOT SEEN IT POSSIBLE TO  
ENTER INTO THE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMICAL COMMITMENT OF INVESTING  
IN THE EURODIF PLANT." REASONS GIVEN FOR GOS DECISION ARE:

(1) SWEDEN'S SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR  
THE "NEXT 20-25 YEARS" THROUGH AGREEMENTS WITH U.S. AND U.S.S.R.  
FOR THE PRESENT ELEVEN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, (2) FUTURE NUCLEAR  
POWER PROGRAM IS UNDER REVIEW AND AWAITS A PARLIAMENTARY DECISION  
IN THE SPRING OF 1975, AND (3) HIGH COST OF PARTICIPATION  
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EURODIF PLANT. THE SWEDISH ATOMIC ENERGY  
COMPANY BELIEVES THAT (1) EURODIF PROJECT IS "BASED ON WELL  
ESTABLISHED TECHNOLOGY" (2) ENRICHMENT SALES AND SERVICES WILL  
BE SATISFACTORY, (3) CAPACITY FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES AND SUPPLY  
WILL BE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED THROUGH EURODIF, AND (4) THAT  
SWEDEN IS "ANXIOUS TO RETAIN THE POSSIBILITY TO BUY ENRICHMENT  
SERVICES FROM THE EURODIF COMPANY FOR FUTURE NEEDS."

COMMENT: THE GOS DECISION HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.  
GOS IS SATISFIED WITH ITS CONTRACTS FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES  
WITH THE USAEC AND MOST OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT SWEDEN'S FUTURE  
REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET THROUGH CONTRACTURAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH  
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AEC. ANOTHER FACTOR IN THE DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE WAS

HIGH COST OF CONSTRUCTION (SWEDEN'S SHARE WAS 10 PERCENT) OF  
EURODIF PLANT. ACCORDING TO SOME ESTIMATES, SWEDEN'S SHARE MIGHT  
HAVE AMOUNTED TO ONE BILLION KRONOR. IN ADDITION TO THIS DRAIN ON  
INVESTMENT FUNDS, INCREASE IN OIL PRICES COMBINED WITH UNCER-  
TAINTY AMOUNT OF CAPITAL INVESTMENTS REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION  
ADDITIONAL HYDROELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES  
TO MEET SWEDEN'S FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS COMBINED WITH OTHER CON-  
SIDERATIONS TO HELP TIP BALANCE AGAINST JOINING EURODIF.  
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## Message Attributes

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